Welcome to the...

# DMS DOZEN

## 6th November 2026

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Dear DMS Families,

Welcome back from what we hope has been an enjoyable Half-Term break. Although the break was longer, the INSET days provided meaningful opportunities for the school and the other schools in the area to come together and continue to find ways we can improve the experiences of all students in our communities. The focus was very much on our commitment to provide the best possible education for your child with up-to-date research driving the ideas and experiences that we will now be working on.

Our commitment includes the passion to have the highest possible standards across all aspects of the school, and with this in mind, we really do appreciate the support we have received in making sure uniform expectations are in-line with our rules. Pupils are arriving to school smart, respectful and ready to learn – thank you!

Despite only being the first week back, there is already a lot in our calendar that you can look forward to regardless of the year group your child might attend. Next week, we have our Level-2 'Bikeability' course taking place to ensure pupils have the cycling proficiency to cycle safely in and around our community. We also have Art workshops, body percussion workshops and an exciting opportunity for some Year 7 and 8 pupils to take part in Dorset Digital Day on Wednesday, linked with work in ICT.




We will of course also be bringing the whole school together on Wednesday to show our respect and remembrance to those who have lost their lives in conflict.

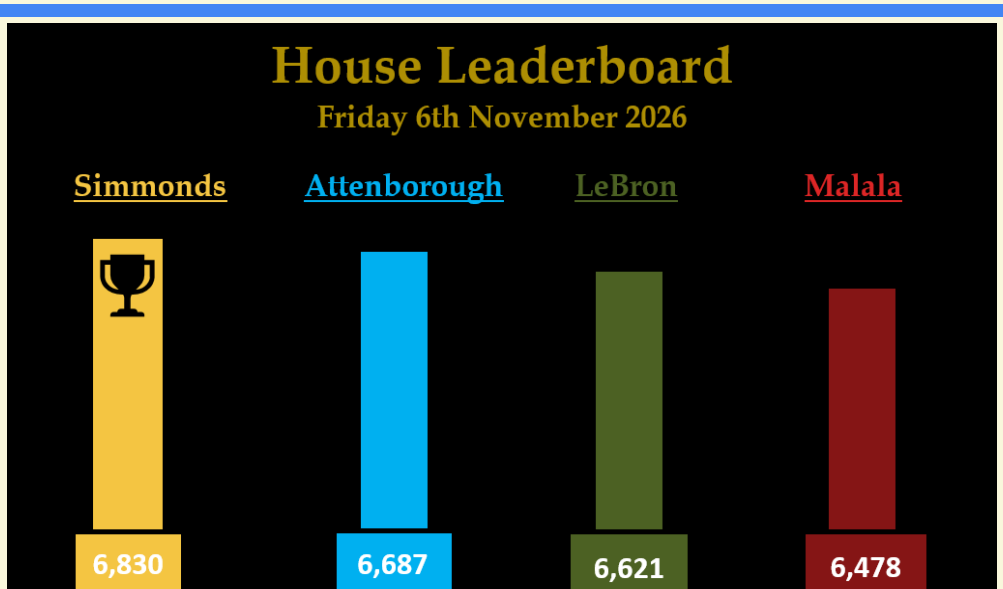
Mr Murray

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## Important dates for your diary

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| 12th November | Teatime Concerts at DMS – Musicians to perform for their parents – Hall – 3:30 to 5pm |
| 13th November | PTFA Boogie Bingo – School Hall – after school |
| 17th November | Open Morning for current Year 4 families – School Hall |
| 18th November | Flu vaccination – whole school – parents to be contacted directly by the Nursing Team |
| 18th November | Staff/Parent Choir rehearsal – Music Room – 5 to 6:15pm |
| 23rd November | Year 6 Mock SATs (ALL WEEK) |

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# Parent Question of the Week

## I have received my child's Attendance Report, what does it mean and what should I do if I have any questions?

At the start of the week, all parents and carers should have received their child's attendance report for the first half term. This information is one of the ways that DMS and other schools in our trust hope to continue to improve communication. We know that better attendance leads to better outcomes for our children and so by sharing information like this regularly, there is a better chance of everyone knowing how their child might be doing in school and to what extent attendance might be impacting this. You might be pleased to know that at DMS we rank very highly when comparing attendance against schools locally and nationally. This means that pupils at DMS are more likely to fare better when it comes to their learning. We know however, that things like illness and matters of unforeseen circumstance are all part of life, and can have an impact on all of us. As a result, if you are a little bit surprised by the data in your child's report because of a few days off for illness, please remember that at this stage, the data is skewed by the number of days we have been in school. It is sometimes a surprise to us all at how fast a percentage might change with a few days off here or there. This is again a reason why we try to be open and transparent. If you have any questions or concerns around your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are passionate about supporting you and your family no-matter what the circumstances and try and help where we can.

# Pupil Question of the Week

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## Why has a reminder about uniform gone home, and why has some things changed?

Great question! Firstly, nothing in the uniform policy has really changed. Every year we review our policies and reflect on how we might communicate this information. From time to time, we will send out reminders around the most common misconceptions or mistakes we might make with uniform. Things like the rules around jewellery, make-up and shoes have been the same for many years, and are nothing new. Things like the rules around the shorts to wear for PE, have also always been the same, but it has not always been clear enough – which is why a reminder has been sent. We have also tried being clearer about what happens if uniform is an issue and what we can do to help if there is a problem getting the right uniform. Most importantly we hope that we can support you and your parents so that you feel confident, safe and happy in school, while following the rules that are in place.

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# Reading News

## 🎃 Spooktober Reading Bingo! 👻

Great news!! We have extended the closing date for the Reading Bingo, so there is still time to take part. Complete as many reading activities as you can and return your signed and dated bingo sheet to the library/Mrs James by **Tuesday 10th November**.

Extra sheets can be collected from the school library.

All completed sheets will be entered into our prize draw, with the lucky winners being drawn next week! 🏆

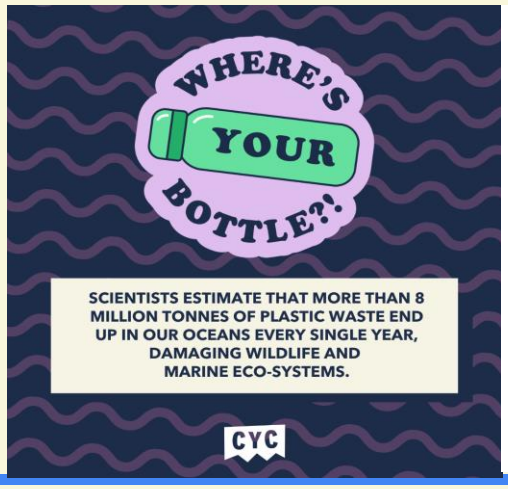


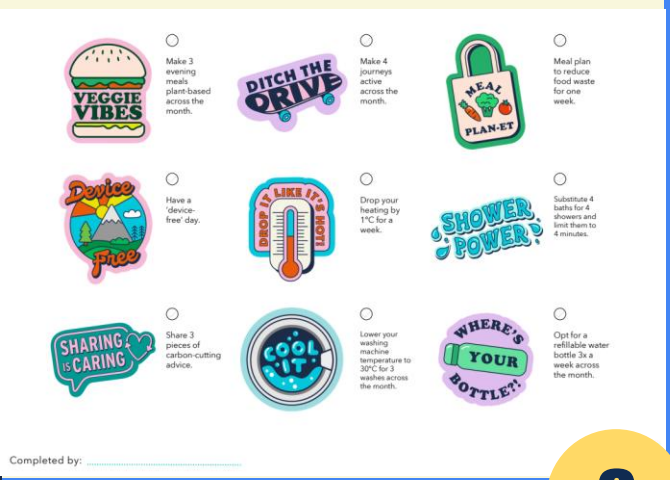
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# Eco Club News – Cut Your Carbon!!

Our Eco warriors are inviting the school community to complete 9 small carbon-cutting activities at home with friends and family, throughout November. We have attached a checklist that you can stick to your fridge to start cutting carbon today!!

These actions will reduce your everyday carbon emissions and benefit our planet. To find out how you can get involved, speak to a member of the school Eco-Club.




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## Celebrating our amazing pupils...

A huge thank you to the Year 7 football team who represented the school amazingly on Tuesday (before half term) in the County Cup.

Although it didn't go our way - it just wasn't to be - we finished runners up. The positives from the match stood out above all. Most importantly, the pupils played like a team and worked for each other to the very end!!



Mr Palmer noted that it was a pleasure to see. Well done Year 7, roll on the Area Cup!

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## More amazing pupils to celebrate!!




We are super proud of Harry in Year 7. During half term he played in the Barcelona football cup. Harry's team finished top of the group on Saturday. On Sunday they won the semifinal meaning they got into the final. They drew 2-2, which meant penalties! Unfortunately, they lost on Penalties but coming 2nd overall in the tournament. Harry got awarded best goalkeeper as he conceded the least amount of goals!!



The very talented Raziel also in Year 7, got a very well-deserved Headteachers' golden sticker for this incredible pizza, prepared in ns. Believe you me, this pizza looked and smelled absolutely delicious!!



On Thursday, this amazing group of Year 7 pupils were sent to Mrs King's office by Mr Greetham, for their fantastic History writing!

Well done to all of you!! We are very proud.

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## PTFA News

It is almost here!! DMS Boogie Bingo is happening next week!! On Friday 13th November doors will open at 6pm for 6:30pm eyes down. We will have great music, games, prizes and more!! Only £5 per person, open for Years 5 to 9.

The next upcoming event will be the PTFA Christmas Disco to be held on Friday 12th December, which is always a huge success.

Our amazing PTFA works tirelessly behind the scenes not only to produce great events for our DMS families, but they also have raised incredible amounts of money to support the school. Do you want to help on one of these events or join them? Please email: ptfa.dms@gmail.com




## What else is happening in our community?

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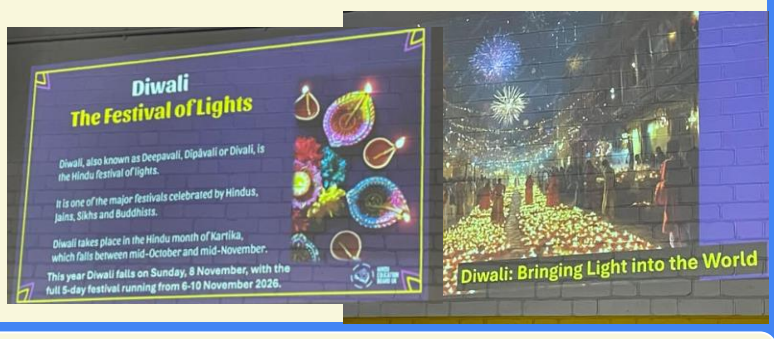



We are delighted to be launching our new DMS Teatime Concerts next Thursday 12th November. Our first concert will showcase pupils learning violin with Ms Greenwood and piano with Mr Gardner, giving them the opportunity to share their musical talents in a relaxed and supportive setting. Parents are warmly invited to join us in the Drama Hall for refreshments from **3.40pm**, ahead of the concert, which will begin at 4.00pm. We look forward to welcoming you for an enjoyable afternoon of music!! You will find attached a letter from Mr Shortman, with advance notice of the rest of the upcoming Teatime concerts.




In honour of this years 'Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day', Local Food Links, our school meals supplier, has invited our pupils to participate in a Competition to draw or paint the design for a Christmas Jumper. They ask that the image represents Christmas, it is A4 in size, that you don't use a jumper template as the image needs to be printed onto a jumper and that the work of art should be sent to Local Food Links via email at: comps@localfoodlinks.org. You can be as creative as you want! It's totally free to enter and you could win your design printed on a jumper ready for Christmas' Jumper day!!

This week during assembly, Mrs Hammonds shared with our pupils the Festival of Diwali. How it is celebrated and the importance of light in the darkness. She ended by challenging our pupils – asking: 'Would you be a light to someone? This means helping a friend, including someone who feels left out or showing kindness when nobody else is looking!




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## And finally…

As already mentioned, don't forget to support our amazing PTFA by coming along to our PTFA Boogie Bingo Night on the 13th of November. If you haven't already got plans, you may well do now! I just need to think of what I will wear... Have a lovely weekend everybody!

*Mr Murray*